

NOTES ON THE FAUNA OF THE BELLENDEN-KER RANGES.

BY DR. E. P. RAMSAY, F.R.S.E., &c.

In January last Messrs. Cairn and Grant collecting for the Australian Museum, returned from a trip to the table lands of the Bellenden-Ker Ranges of Queensland, bringing with them an interesting collection of Mammals and Birds; among the former class I find two new species in addition to those already known from that district. The following is a list of the Mammals inhabiting the Brushes on the slopes and tableland of the range of mountains known as Bellenden Ker, of which the Museum has obtained specimens :—

HOMO SAPIENS, *var.* AUSTRALIS.

2 Crania.

1 Adult female mummy, dried.

PLEOPODIDÆ, *Owen.*

HYPSIPRYMNODON (*Pleopus*) MOSCHATUS, *Ramsay.*

P.L.S. N.S.W. Vol. I. p. 33.

This remarkable form of the Marsupialia, for which Sir Richard Owen has formed the family *Pleopodidæ* (full-footed *Macropodidæ*), is the only one yet recorded of the *Macropus* section in which five toes are found. It would perhaps be better to consider it as a sub-family of *Macropodidæ* under the name of *Pleopodinae*, and holding equal rank with the *Macropodinae*. The dentition is purely *Macropodus* and is almost identical with that of *Bettongia* and *Hypsiprymnus*.

The "Musk Rat," under which name it is known to the settlers in the Rockingham Bay and Cairns Districts, is far from being common. I obtained five specimens in 1874, but since then two only, although a careful search has been made for them by several collectors in both of the above-named districts. An important paper on this anomalous Marsupial will be found in the "Transactions of the Linnean Society of London" (2nd Series, Vol. I. p. 573, pl. 71-72), by Sir Richard Owen, C.B., F.R.S., &c.

Only one specimen was obtained by the Museum collectors during last season (1887).

DASYURUS GRACILIS, sp. nov.

$$\text{I. } \frac{4.4}{3.3} \quad \text{C. } \frac{1.1}{1.1} \quad \text{P-M. } \frac{2.2}{2.2} \quad \text{M. } \frac{4.4}{4.4} = \frac{22}{20} = \text{Total, 42.}$$

Total length, about 23 inches.

Body from snout to base of tail, 13 inches.

From snout to eye, 1.40 inches.

From snout to base of ear in front, 2.40 inches.

Length of ear from base in front, 0.75 inch.

Fore-arm, 2.20 inches.

Fore-foot without nails, 1.50 inches.

Hind-limb, 2.70 inches.

Hind-foot, 2.30 inches.

Tail, 9.30 inches.

Length of hair beyond the tip, 1 inch.

General color, above and below, deep blackish-brown with white spots: the fur is short, close, somewhat harsh to the touch, on the limbs and tail similar, but a little shorter on the latter, which ends in an elongated tuft of hair 1 inch to 1.50 in length on the upper side only, the hair on the under side being very short. The white spots are largest and sometimes confluent on the sides of the body and basal half of the tail, and also on the inner sides of the limbs and the belly; on the remaining portion of the tail, the limbs, and

the back, the white markings are confined to small spots, some linear in form; a few spots of the same on the head, feet, and hands. All the under surface and the head is of the same blackish-brown tint as the rest of the body. The animal is of slender form, the head about twice as long as broad, being in length about 3 inches by 1.50 across the zygomatic arches. Canines strong, and comparatively large. Tail long, slender, and tufted at the tip; the fifth toe is very small and without a nail; the remaining toes of both fore and hind limbs with comparatively strong nails. Whiskers black and long, extending to the shoulders. The description is taken from a stuffed specimen.

Were it not for the dentition I should be inclined to consider the specimen under consideration to be immature, as we already know of a very large species of *Dasyurus*, even larger than *D. maculatus*, inhabiting the Rockingham Bay district and the Bellenden-Ker Ranges.

Mr. Robert Johnstone, P.M., when Inspector of Police in these districts sent me the skull of a species, which measured considerably more than that of any of the southern individuals with which I have met. This northern form may be the representative of the *D. maculatus* of N. S. Wales and other colonies, and will probably prove to be a new and undescribed species.

The coloring of the present new species is entirely different from that of any previously described.

PHALANGISTA JOHNSTONII, sp.nov.

I. $\frac{3.3}{1.1}$. C. $\frac{2.2}{1.1}$. P-M. $\frac{2.2}{1.1}$. M. $\frac{4.4}{4.4}$.

Length of skull, 3.20 inches.

Greatest width behind the zygomatic arches at base, 1.60 inches.

Width across forehead, 0.60 inches.

From incisors to large premolar, 1.0 inch.

Space between last incisor and canine, 0·10 inch, and slightly less than that between first and second premolars.

Length of range of molars and large premolar, 0·90 inch.

Width of third molar, 0·20 inch; length of same, 0·20 inch.

Width of two lower incisors, 0·30 inch.

Width of palate measured between the first molars, 0·70 inch.

The anterior palatal foramina extend from the exterior margin of the third incisor to the posterior margin of the canine; its length is 0·27 inch; its greatest width is anteriorly, and scarcely equals one-tenth of an inch. Length of palate from the incisors, 1·10 inches; width of palate between the small first premolars, 0·60 inch; between large premolars, 0·70 inch. The forehead between the lateral, or interorbital, ridges is deeply depressed, its width, 0·55 inch. Width across the zygomatic arch at posterior margin of orbit, 0·70 inch; nasals, 1·20 inches. Greatest width of skull across posterior portion of zygomatic arch, 1·90 inches; greatest length from incisors to occipital foramen, 3·25 inches. Rami—Length of condyles to interior base of incisors, 2·30 inches; width across from outer margins of condyles, 1·80 inches; greatest height from base to top of ascending ramus, 1·10 inches; length of mandibular ramus from 4th molar and including the large premolar, 0·95 inch; distance between premolar and minute canine, 0·30 inch; height of mandible to base of second molar 0·45 inch; length of incisor teeth from in front, 0·50 inch. The small canines are situated at the root of the incisors, and almost touch their inner margin.

The general color above and below is of a rich chestnut-red; down the back a shade, but not a distinct stripe of blackish; tail black, bare below for the distal half of its length, the extreme tip of which is bare above and below, and frequently yellowish-white.

I have dedicated this species to Mr. Robert Johnstone, P.M., who, accompanying Dalrymple's Exploring Expedition to North-east Queensland in 1873, was the first with others of his party who succeeded in reaching the top of Bellenden-Ker.

PHALANGISTA LEMUROIDES, *Collett.*

P.Z.S. 1884, p. 385.

This species does not appear to be plentiful, but in the dense dark scrubs nocturnal animals of small size are always difficult to obtain.

PHALANGISTA ARCHERI, *Collett.*

P.Z.S. 1884, p. 381.

Many examples of this very distinct species were found; the young have the same distinctive markings as the adult, but not so well defined.

PHALANGISTA sp, *juv.*

This appears to be the young of *P. cookii*, but does not altogether agree with the examples from the Richmond River, presumed of the same species. It may be the young of *P. herbertensis*, Collett.

(*To be continued*).